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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 1976.

HOCKEY STINGERS FACE TOUGH WEEK IN U.S.

The Concordia Hockey Stingers, faced with a rugged early season road schedule, will continue along these lines this coming week, when they meet the Clarkson College Golden Knights on Tuesday, and the St. Louis University Billikens on Friday and Sunday.

Paul Arsenault's Stingers have yet to play on home ice, and sport a 4-3-2 road record. In their last contest Saturday night, the Stingers suffered a 5-4 defeat at the hands of the University of Vermont. The Catamounts popped in two goals, late in the final period to salvage the victory, before a sell-out crowd.

With this season's departure of ten veterans, Arsenault has experienced problems moulding some promising young rookies into the line-up. For this reason he is using the team's first twelve non-conference road games as an inauguration period, to flatten out the kinks before the all important race to the Nationals begins.

The Stingers will have to be on their toes in these three upcoming games, with some tough competition ahead. Clarkson has always been one of the top teams in the ECAC, and has posed problems for Concordia-Loyola over the last few years.

Since their arrival on the collegiate hockey scene in 1970, St. Louis has been a bright spot on the American College Hockey scene. This is the first time that a Concordia squad has challenged the Billikens, but in the past Loyola had only managed to split a 3-3 draw with them in games. Coached by Bill Selman, the St. Louis team has always been able to gain an advantage over their opponents by playing before large partisan crowds at the St. Louis Arena.

If the Stingers can learn by their mistakes, which had them repeatedly giving up the puck in their own end, they should be able to get back on the winning track.

Fourth year man, Glen Tomalty, is the team's leading scorer with a 12 goals 9 assists record, including a hat-trick against Vermont. His line, complemented by Ken Sinclair and Tom Faludi has been the Stingers most consistent so far. Faludi will have no trouble getting accustomed to the U.S. College style of play this week, having toiled four years at St. Lawrence University.

Other impressive rookies so far have been Alex Westgate, Kim Elliott, and Mike Griffin. Westgate played in the Concordia Junior Varsity system last season, after enrolling right out of high school in London, Ontario. He is a tireless checker, fitting right in with Arsenault's game plan. Once adjusting to college play, Elliott could mould into one of the team's leading scorers. At 19, he already has experience playing at centre with the Kingston Canadians of the OHA.

Griffin, now the Stingers top goalie has been the most pleasant surprise this season. Faced with the chore of replacing All-Canadian Jim Corsi, Arsenault was able to pick up the 20 year old Griffin, who was an OUAA All-Star last season, leading the Guelph Gryphons to the National finals.

Once the rookies get accustomed to Arsenault's system, the team will start living up to the pre-season selection of number one in Canadian collegiate ranks.